

What is **Wildland Fire Use**?

- Management of ignitions (fire starts) by natural events, such as lightning
- All wildland fire use fires must be started by a natural ignition source (i.e. lightning). If a fire is person-caused, it is not eligible to be put into wildland fire use status and suppression action must be taken.
- Wildland fire use fires must meet resource objectives and have an approved implementation plan.

What are some of the **resource objectives** of Wildland Fire Use?

- Recycling nutrients into the soil
- Enhancing habitat for wildlife
- Reducing accumulations of woody material on the forest floor
- Increasing the amount of perennial grasses, forbs and browse plants for the benefit of wildlife and livestock
- Maintaining grassland ecosystems by controlling the encroachment of trees
- Reducing the potential for high-intensity fires
- Protecting threatened and endangered animal and plant habitat from the negative effects of high-intensity fires
- Creating conditions such as more open stands and reduced fuels
- Allowing fires to actively function as an ecological process across the landscape

Doesn't wildland fire use really mean you just **allow fires to burn**?

NO! Wildland fire use fires are actively managed and must have been thoroughly evaluated before being put into wildland fire use status. Fire managers must go through a rigorous decision-making process that includes:

- Determining how the fire started. Wildland fire use incidents must have been started from a natural ignition source, such as lightning. If a fire is human-caused, it must be suppressed.
- Determining if there is a threat to life, property or resources that cannot be mitigated. If such a threat exists, the fire must be suppressed.
- Determining if there are sufficient firefighting resources available to actively manage a wildland fire use incident. If there are not, the fire must be suppressed.
- Finally, weighing the potential risks and benefits of a specific wildland fire use incident. If the risks outweigh the benefits, the fire will be suppressed.